

Shanghai Municipal Council.



POLICE FORCE,
(DETECTIVE BRANCH)

May 18th

1916

Sir,

The Chekiang Authorities have sent agents to Shanghai who are endeavouring to buy arms and ammunition.

A number of brokers are busy on this account and they report that in Shanghai there can be purchased 12 machine guns with 5000 rounds of ammunition for each at a total cost of \$2000.00 and 15,000 Mauser rifles of the German 1898 pattern with 500 rounds of ammunition for each at a cost of \$60 per weapon.

The machine guns belong, it is alleged, to a German; the owner of the rifles is not known but the weapons are said to be stored in a godown in Pootung.

The price asked is higher than the Chekiang people is willing to give as they have an offer of 25000 Japanese rifles with 800 rounds of cartridges, for 30 Yen a piece. These rifles are in Japan but the offer will be accepted if the money can be raised.

A Japanese firm bearing the name of Takata & Co No.8 Museum Road is reported to have 750 rifles with bayonets, belts, and 250 rounds of ammunition which are stored in a godown at Pootung and which were for sale about ten days ago at a price of \$20 for each weapon.

Your Obedient Servant,

William Armstrong

Chief Detective Inspector.

Captain Superintendent of Police.

Thanks

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